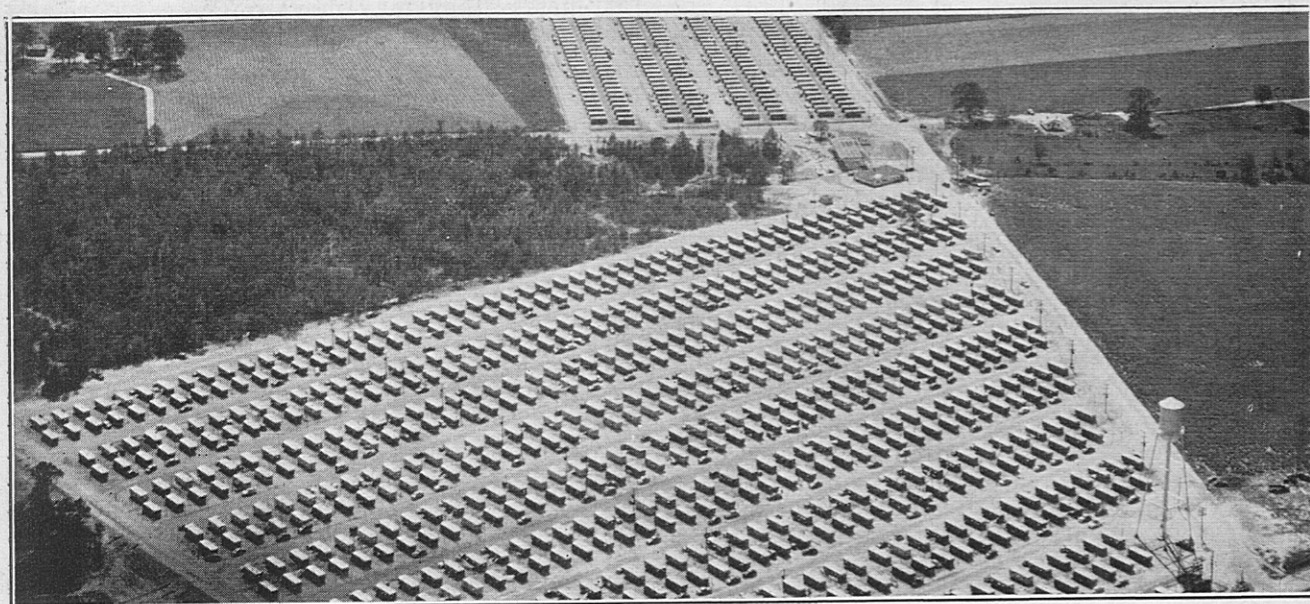


The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES



AIR VIEW OF THE ROBBINS TRAILER CITY PARISH - AIKEN, S. C.

This is one of the 1,000 trailer units which has been set up as temporary housing for personnel engaged in building the huge Hydrogen Bomb Plant on the Savannah River.

The Church at Work in the H-Bomb Community

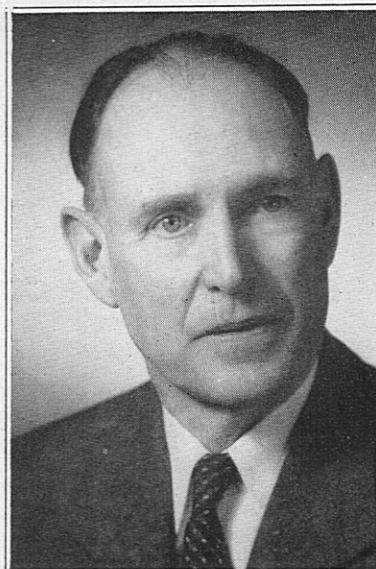
By Matthew B. Porter, Jr.

As I was walking up one of the "streets" of Robbins Trailer City recently I suddenly came upon a living "picture" which portrayed two of the most vivid facts in my new "parish"—the lack of shade and the abundance of children. There, before my eyes, was a little baby perhaps seven months old sitting in a wash tub which had been placed by the child's mother in the meager shade afforded by the family car.

Before moving to Robbins Trailer City a few weeks ago I had not realized the actual preciousness of shade—at least shade produced by a tree. The one thousand trailers in Robbins are located in an ex-cotton field. There are five trees in the whole area which afford shade only to the trailers near them.

The trailers themselves are spaced twenty feet apart and are situated on fifteen streets. They are not fully rented all of the time, but I would estimate that we have a normal population of about 850 families. These are mostly young couples, so there is a preponderance of pre-school children. Of course there are some older children, too, among them about fifty teen-agers. On the whole then, the population is just a group of average American citizens with the same hopes, desires, ambitions, fears, worries, spiritual needs that one would expect to find in any community of 3000 people anywhere in our country. However, the nature of trailer living here has intensified certain aspects of these qualities.

It has been a most fascinating venture, therefore, trying to develop a valid Christian ministry. My people are of all shades of religious opinion. Most of them are at least nominal members of some denomination. They are chiefly of the Protestant wing of the Christian church, although a few are Roman Catholics. Since I am a Congregational minister and practically none of the people have ever heard of Congregationalism, that has presented an interesting problem in itself. There are no buildings in the area in which to carry on recreational or religious work. Moreover, most of my parishioners have a feeling of tempo-



THE REV. MATTHEW B. PORTER, JR.

rarity-- they may move on in a month, six months or in a year or so.

Since there are no well defined techniques for meeting the total situation, I have had to proceed experimentally. At the present time there is being distributed to each trailer a semi-monthly mimeographed sheet which I am calling "The R.T.C. Messenger." Included with this is a helpful leaflet of some kind. Recently, through the courtesy of the American Bible Society, I was able to include a copy of one of the Gospels with each "Messenger." The "Upper Room" people of Nashville, Tenn., have sent me 800 copies of their current issue for free distribution. The regular distribution of this material is done by myself, since the contacts made on these visitations are perhaps at times more valuable than the literature. This feature of the ministry needs to be enlarged. It would be better to distribute something each week. This of course leads into pastoral calling, which is essential in this work as in any normal situation.

A program for Sunday is just now developing. This will include a morning Worship Service at

The Rev. Edward A. Driscoll To Head Georgia Council Of Churches

The Rev. Edward A. Driscoll of Atlanta assumed the full-time directorship of the Georgia Council of Churches on August 1.

A minister of the Congregational Christian Church, Mr. Driscoll has been executive secretary of the Southern Area Student Council of the YMCA since 1948.

The Georgia Council of Churches was organized last November and is supported by nine major Protestant denominations. The Congregational Christian Churches of Georgia were charter members of this Council, and Walter L. Jackson, the treasurer of the Southeast Convention, is a member of the Financial Committee of the Council.

Laymen's Fellowship Authorized Special Has Been Discontinued

According to Walter A. Graham, national director of the Laymen's Fellowship, the Board of Home Missions in session recently gave careful consideration to the Authorized Special idea for an Associate Director of the Laymen's Fellowship and did not wisely feel they could approve this request.

Mr. Herman D. Cook, Southeast Convention President of the Laymen's Fellowship, is therefore requesting that all state chairmen and other key laymen discontinue any and all efforts on this project. Any funds which have been sent in by laymen's groups will be returned at an early date.

TOURING THE SOUTHEAST

I wish all of you could have the thrilling opportunity of touring the Southeast Convention as I do. Since all of you can't go into the "little blue Dodge," the next best thing is for me to give you a running account of the more than 5,000 miles traveled this past month.

On Sunday, June 21, I headed for Doerun, Ga., and a visit with the people of the Poplar Arbor and New Light Parish. Tom Dean is their pastor and commutes all the way from Columbus to serve them on a quarter-time schedule. We met in the new building at Poplar Arbor which is now almost complete. A good congregation and a good fellowship dinner made for a good day. After seeing that situation and meeting those congregations, I'm willing to predict that Poplar Arbor will soon be going on fulltime and New Light will be starting a building program. There is real promise in the Doerun Parish and a spirit of progress at work among the congregations!

The following Wednesday we had a fellowship supper and evening service at our Hebron Church out of Crest, Ga., where Paul Pike is fulltime pastor. A beautiful little church with an active congregation. We can continue to expect great things of our people at Hebron.

My next appointment took me to Bethany at The Rock, Ga., where R. J. Ellerbee is pastor. A large and happy crowd was on hand for the Homecoming Service and a real feast was enjoyed by all. For the second time since January the "little blue Dodge" got lost and made me late for a service.

Next stop was Nashville, Tenn. Two other trips to Nashville this month have kept me in close touch with our "new church," Vanderbilt School of Religion and the Atlanta Seminary Foundation.

Under a special appropriation by the Conven-

nine and an evening service at eight. This latter will begin with a community sing, followed by a religious motion picture. Both services will be out-of-doors. Construction has begun on a shelter for the recreational area, and this of course can be used for church services when it is completed.

My work here is under the joint sponsorship of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches and the Department of City Work of our Board of Home Missions, with the approval of the Committee on Service to Defense Communities of the National Council of Churches. Even with this helpful, necessary and impressive sponsorship we must be ever mindful of the fact that "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it."

We have a splendid opportunity here to demonstrate our Christian faith in all of its healing power and particularly the larger aspects of that faith, including a recognition of the fact that the truth is the same though we search for Him along different paths.

The time is short. These people in all proba-

(Please turn to page 10)

tion Board of Directors the new church is getting under way. The Rev. Talmadge Hartman was called as interim pastor of "Pilgrim Chapel" and Richard Rider, an S.S.S. worker, is conducting a religious census in two new communities. A new church in one of the rapidly growing sections of the city is our ultimate objective, and everyone is at work.

Then came a three-day visit with the ministers and churches of North Alabama Association. We held meetings at Caddo and Fairview. Dr. Guy L. Colbert and Vell M. Bayne were my hosts and Ben Compton, Robert Shelton, Ernest Shelton and Richard Waugh were on hand for the services and the tour of the churches. Another prediction—North Alabama has all the characteristics of an area of promise and as the months go by a lot of good news will be coming from these churches and pastors! (Incidentally, Dr. Colbert invited me to visit the Pastors' School at Athens College, Athens, Ala., which happened to be going on. All the Methodists were there and they gave a real welcome and a good write-up in their news release! Thanks, Dr. Colbert, it was a fine experience.)

Alexander City, Ala., was the next stop where we had a wonderful service with the good pastor and people of Hunt Memorial Church. The new Christian Education wing of the church has been completed and is now being put to good use. (We have all been deeply grieved by word received this morning that the Rev. Marion L. Thrasher is very seriously ill and is unable to continue his pastorate. Our prayers will be with him and his people in the days ahead.)

On to Pearson in South Georgia, and an all-day visit to Union Hill Church, where Earl Hand is minister. Earl is spending a month at the Western Pastors' School in LaForet near Silver Springs, Colo. A side visit to Waycross to meet with the Rev. Ralph Worley included a surprise meeting with a delegation of six men from our Tifton Church. Nothing like killing seven birds with one stone! That night, after evening service, Rev. Carpenter came down from Douglas to talk over plans for the big Gideon's Club meeting to be held the fifth Sunday in August at Tifton. It was a full day but a mighty profitable one. My only regret is that I did not get to go fishing with Yancy Sears. I did get to go through the new parsonage, a one floor, three bedroom plan which is very livable. Congratulations are much in order!

After a few hours in the office, the little blue Dodge headed toward Wadley, Ala., and the Alabama and Northwest Florida Women's Fellowship Retreat at Southern Union College. A complete report appears in this issue so I'll say no more than "another great Retreat."

Sunday, July 19, was Homecoming Day at Oak Grove Church near Chipley, Ga., and at Red Hill out of Richland. It was a pleasure to be with Dr. David Shepherd and his good people at Oak Grove. The rain tried to spoil our picnic dinner and dampen our spirits, but to no avail. A mix-up in scheduling almost had me preaching at two places at once that evening, but thanks to the co-

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Vol. 1 - No. 11

AUGUST, 1953

Making History - A Call to Rally

A great rally for all Congregational Christians and friends has been set for Sunday, August 30, at the new church in Tifton, Georgia!

The call comes from the **Gideon Club of Church Builders**, an organization which promises to be a great power in establishing and advancing new church projects throughout the Southeast Convention. At this special meeting it will organize, elect officers, and set up basic policies and procedures.

August 30th being the fifth Sunday, it is hoped that many churches will suspend services and join in this history making rally. Services begin at 10:30 A.M. Superintendent Butterfield will deliver the morning sermon, which will be broadcast over W.W.G.S. Bring a basket lunch and stay for the afternoon panel discussion, reports, and fellowship. Among the participants will be the Rev. J. A. Roundtree, interim pastor of the Tifton Church; the Rev. A. Goff Bedford of Langdale, Ala.; the Rev. W. C. Carpenter of Tifton, Ga.; the Rev. Archie B. Bedford, Charleston, S. C.; and J. T. Gill, Lester Shaw, Mrs. A. J. Mixon, G. E. Turner, Mrs. B. W. James, Miss Helen Sears, and the Reverends Earl Hand, Carl Dollar, and Ralph Worley will participate in the panel discussion. Mrs. Ione Kirkland is in charge of the devotional.

operation of W. C. Carpenter and the congregations of the two Richland churches, we had a good combined service at Red Hill, one of the oldest Christian churches in the area.

A trip on behalf of the Real Estate and Mortgage Department of the Board of Home Missions, trying to clear up the mysteries of some of our "lost" churches added miles and hours to the traveling schedule.

Of course some time was spent in the office doing the routine jobs pertaining to the superintendency, but this "tour" has lasted long enough. Glad to have you along!

—Erston M. Butterfield

What's this **Gideon Club of Church Builders** all about? Come and learn all the thrilling details. You will want to be one of the first thousand members! Don't miss this Rally!

How to Aid Korean Orphans . . .

In answer to an inquiry from the Convention office regarding aid sent directly to various orphanages in Korea, we have received the following letter from the Rev. E. Norris Wilson, Associate Minister and Executive Secretary of the Missions Council.

"I want to say that when others have written to me asking my advise about a project such as this I have discouraged their participation on the grounds that the seventy-five dollars per year, or whatever the sum happens to be, will do more good if it is channeled through denominational sources where we can buy food, powdered milk, vitamins, etc., in bulk quantities. I know how nice it is to have a "personal relationship" with someone you are trying to help, but with thirty million refugees in the world today it seems to me that our stewardship requires that we do the most good with the funds we have to disburse.

"Possibly the churches would be pleased to know that their relief moneys sent through the denomination receive apportionment credit, whereas the direct gift you describe does not."

Chaplain Edwin Gomke Writes From Asmara

Many of you will remember Chaplain Edwin Gomke, formerly at Fort Benning, Ga. From Asmara, Eritrea he writes as follows:

"We have been here in Asmara four months now and are comfortably settled in an Italian Villa with two servants to do our work and plenty of activity to keep us busy. My job is a most interesting one. I still can't believe I was fortunate enough to get one of the Army's choice assignments—overseas, that is.

"I received your material on Africa, and when I was in New York I picked up additional information regarding the mission fields on this great continent. As you know, there are no stations in this area sponsored by our church, but there are several missions here in Asmara and in nearby towns. We have the Presbyterians, Swedish, Holiness and Seventh Day Adventists. All of them are very limited in their work. The only extensive church is the Roman Catholic Church, which came in with the Italians during the colonization. Half of the native population is Coptic and the other half Moslim. From superficial observation, this is a religiously dead country. There are plenty of Coptic Churches, but they seem so far removed from the everyday life of the people. They are usually high on a hilltop, almost inaccessible. The mass is read in the ancient Coptic language and the lay people are frightfully ignorant of their nominal faith.

"The Protestant Missions are making slow progress against this un-evangelistic attitude. Then, too, half of the people being Moslim, the missionaries have to be very careful in their approach."

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

Kingdom Business

Last month we talked about the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses and their task of developing spiritual power within the fellowship which is the church. Now let's turn our attention to the business end of church work and the Board of Trustees. Their job, as elected officers and agents of the congregation, is to have charge of the financial affairs, property matters, and other corporate business. Church business is Kingdom Business and that means it is "big business" and important business! Being a good Trustee takes time and effort.

Occasionally we hear of Boards of Trustees who try to run the church and assume responsibility for every phase of church work. Such a board usually does more harm than good, and probably makes such a mistake because it is unaware of its real duties and sphere of responsibility. A good church constitution will not only provide for a Trustee Board but will outline their duties and arrange, through a limited term of office, for wider sharing of this great experience. Your constitution probably reads something like this:

"Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees shall consist of six members each serving for a term of two years. Two members shall be elected at each annual meeting. After serving two full terms, no trustee shall be re-elected until after the lapse of one year. The board shall elect its own chairman and determine its own mode of procedure.

"Under the direction of the church and except as otherwise provided, the Board of Trustees shall have the custody of the property of the church and have charge of its financial affairs always subject to regulations prescribed by the laws of the state. The board shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer property without specific authority by vote of the church.

"The Trustees shall have general oversight of the use and maintenance of church property. They shall recommend repairs and improvements after periodic inspection of the church and parsonage and shall see that their recommendations are followed and the jobs successfully completed.

"The Board shall order payment of bills by the Treasurer.

"The Board of Trustees shall appoint at the beginning of each fiscal year Auditors to serve for one year, who shall upon their request examine the accounts of the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary, and report thereon as required by the church or the Trustees."

Dr. Royal J. Montgomery, in his Manual for Trustees of Congregational Christian Churches, has provided a valuable guide for church trustees who wish to do their job wisely and well. (A copy is yours for the asking—just send me your request and your manual will be put in the next mail.) Mr. Montgomery outlines the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees as follows . . .

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

1. As to records:

(1) Should see that the clerk's books, records, deeds, and other valuable papers are preserved; especially records of births, deaths, baptisms, marriages, reception and dismissal of members, etc. Such records have historical and legal value and churches should preserve them more faithfully than most of them do.

(2) Deeds, abstracts, insurance policies, etc., should be scrutinized and kept in a safety deposit box or safe; release of mortgages should be recorded. Grant mortgages from the Board of Home Missions should be occasionally checked to see that there is no default in terms and conditions that might later cause the church embarrassment.

2. As to church property:

(1) Care of the church property is an important duty of the trustees. It should be kept neat and in good repair, bearing in mind that the sanctuary is God's house and its condition an index of the place religion holds in the life of those related to it.

(2) The right to grant the use of the building or grounds for purposes outside the general program of the church and its auxiliaries is determined by the trustees, subject to the general policy of the church and the needs of the community.

(3) Property should be kept adequately insured against loss by fire and windstorm. It is also wise to provide public liability coverage.

Again, it is important for the Trustees to hold regular meetings. Kingdom business deserves more than just spasmodic and informal attention. We have suffered too long from the lack of good business practices and procedures. Let's give "this greatest of all businesses" the attention it needs to insure success in the realm of church finance. What to do at the meetings? Again Dr. Montgomery has some good suggestions to make:

Suggested Agenda for Monthly Meetings of a Board of Trustees

1. Call to order and prayer, silent or audible.
2. Roll call and minutes of previous meeting.
3. Report of Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
4. Reports of committees.
5. Old business, including a check on expenditures in relation to budget, delinquent subscriptions, etc.
6. New business, action on bills payable, appropriations.
7. New suggestions for the welfare of the church in the area which the board serves. (See themes).
8. A regular five-minute presentation of some phase of stewardship in the interest of a stronger spiritual base for church finance.
9. Adjournment.

Special Themes for Board Meetings

1. What better business methods does our church need?
2. A session on how to make the Every Member Canvass a recurring joy rather than a dreaded chore.

(Please turn to page 10)

TOOLS FOR THE TASK

By Viola R. Cunningham



MRS. T. L. CUNNINGHAM

Recently Mrs. Grace S. Buckham, new president of the National Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women, wrote the following: "I listened with intense interest as a member of our denomination told why she is making possible the education of a number of natives of various lands; why she is doing it through OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION. Why? Because she thinks the life of Jesus is potent news, whether told by doctor or farmer or preacher or mother, but especially when told by the life of a townsman. She not only thinks it; she feels it, and in her it is a pulsing force in her life stream. For you and me, having eyes,

"To see in true reality the force for good that Christ can be,

To keep that realization fresh and vital,

To hold forth, proudly, that glowing light of our lives,

To give its flame to others whose candles may never have been lighted by the beneficent circumstances that lighted ours,

To pray and **work** for the relighting of the flame in lives where it has been stifled by starvation, sophistication, self-preservation; and

To do this as we walk the ordinary paths of common daily lives:

THIS IS OUR TASK!"

True joy comes to us when we see clearly our task and go about it "Rejoicing in our Task." Every gardener knows that to "make a good garden" he must have proper tools, and have them well sharpened. Recently I had the opportunity to examine packets of program materials which our state presidents are making available to every

Woman's Fellowship in the Southeast Convention—if they wish them. Again and again I am thrilled by the wealth of fine program helps, tools if you will, contained in these packets. Presidents! Have you received yours yet? If not, be sure to ask your state president about how you may secure one. Some of you may wish to use these tools for the task just as they are, and to some of you they may be only starting points from which your own imagination will take you off into creative programs of your very own.

Today I sat in on a committee meeting where they were planning for a state retreat program. Some program topics were suggested which immediately set these women to thinking in ways of their own; and, while they will dress them up and present them in their own fashion is sure to be most attractive. It is our hope that for this column we may hear more of that later. One woman said when the meeting was over, "Well, the folk for whom we planned this program may not get a great deal out of it, but I surely have learned a lot I didn't know.

Two pieces of literature from the packets are **MUSTS** for every Fellowship, I believe. First, I would name **GUIDEPOSTS**, that inexpensive little periodical of seven issues a year which is published by our National Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women for twenty-five cents. The April 1953 issue, which is enclosed in each packet, lists all the tools each program chairman will need for 1953-54 programs month by month, and tells where to secure them. Second, the new booklet of eight programs for this year called "Rejoicing in Our Task." These programs are built around our joint study themes for the year—"The Life and Task of the Church Around the World" and "Spanish-speaking Americans in the United States of America." And when you have used these two tools, you will find that they have cultivated ground which calls for additional tools and you will want to purchase them too. They are all listed in the above mentioned copy of **Guideposts**.

Then, had you thought of sharing all these program helps with others in your church and community? Recently our teen-aged daughter brought me up suddenly to the realization that, though we had always had these program helps around our home, I had not realized the value they might be to others than the group of women with whom I would be currently working. A copy of one of the junior high study books was lying on our living room table. She sat with her legs dangling over the arm of an overstuffed chair eagerly reading it, and then she looked up long enough to say, "Mother, where **do** you women find books like this?" More recently she surprised me by asking what I had done with the last issue of the **Southeast News**. She had been to summer conference and these people and things about

(Please turn to page 12)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP —

Annual Retreat

The Woman's Fellowship Retreat for Alabama and West Florida was held at Southern Union College this year, with thirteen churches represented.

Mrs. Lowell Smoot of Phenix City, Ala. was elected President and Mrs. Bernice Carter of Andalusia Vice President. Other officers elected were Mrs. Mamie Carlisle of Birmingham, Secretary; Mrs. Carl Dollar of Roanoke, Treasurer; Mrs. Harry Barr of Phenix City, Friendly Service Chairman; Mrs. Roy Culpepper of Tallassee, Spiritual Life Chairman; and members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee were Mrs. Jettie Logan and Miss Dora Brackin.

A rising vote was given to Mrs. Jettie Logan for her untiring efforts and consecrated work as president for the past four years.

The theme for the year, "Rejoicing in Our Task" was the theme for the program. Guest speakers were Miss Dinina Del Carman of the Philippine Islands; Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Superintendent; Rev. Clyde Flannery, President of Southern Union College; Mrs. Ross of Ohio; Mrs. Vernon Carter and Miss Loretta Petersen.

"Faith for Our Task" was presented by the women of the Wadley Church and was followed by "My Faith in Action" by Miss Del Carman, who told of the work of the women in the Philippine Islands—similar to the work of the women in Alabama. Miss Ruth Pearson of Birmingham presented "Our Fellowship Purpose" in the form of a quiz, and Miss Carolyn Welch told about "Our Christian World Mission."

One of the most beautiful parts of the program was the Christmas party presented by the women of the Phenix City Church, called "A Lamp Beside the Door."

The World Mission theme, "The Life and Task of the Church Around the World" was introduced by Superintendent Butterfield, and this was followed by a candlelight service for the countries around the world by the women of the Roanoke Church.

The airplane trip with Miss Loretta Petersen, on Our Christian World Mission lines, will be long remembered (especially by those who were air sick). The trip was listed as "The Listening Post, a World Tour." Many interesting people were met on the trip and the motor (Miss Carolyn Welch) did not need repair.

The film, *THE HIDDEN HEART*, was shown and the women from the East Tallassee Church were in charge of the Hidden Heart worship program.

The materials from the program packet were presented by Mrs. Mae Sides of Langdale.

During the business session Mrs. Luke Huey, Treasurer, reported that more than a thousand dollars passed through the treasury last year. The state's share of the Woman's Gift was \$93, and it was voted to give \$73 for hymn books for the col-



Mrs. Logan Installs Mrs. Smoot

lege and \$20 for the Southeast Convention Audio-Visual Aids Library.

The women voted to continue to help on the Southern Union College Chapel another year, taking this as the Rally project. Mrs. Harry Barr reported on the state Friendly Service, and a committee was appointed to help on the draperies for the chapel, with Mrs. Clyde Flannery as chairman.

The Rev. Clyde Flannery told of "The College Task" and thanked the women for the help they have given the college, and especially the Chapel.

By Jettie Logan

* * *

Georgia Women's Retreat

The Women's Fellowship of Georgia will hold their annual retreat at Waycross on August 21st. The program will begin at 9:45 A.M., and the registration fee of \$3.50 cover overnight lodging at the Waycross Family Camp and meals.

Mrs. Peter Doherty, the state president, will tell of her trip abroad, including a visit to the International Congregational Council held at St. Andrews, Scotland.

Materials for the year's work will be presented and discussed, and all women's fellowships are urged to send a representative to this retreat.

Churches or women's groups wishing to make a donation for the recreational equipment for the Waycross Family Camp should send it immediately to the assistant dean, Rev. Henry Abbott, Rt. 5, Tifton, Ga.

Mary Margaret Smoot, newly elected president of the Alabama-northwest Florida Women's Fellowship, was born in Waycross, Ga., and is the wife of the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, pastor of the United Church of Phenix City, Ala. She is very active in church work, helping her husband in every way and serving as key woman for her church.

She received her A.B. degree in 1945 from Piedmont College. Mrs. Smoot has taught at Southern Union College, Piedmont College, the Belvedere

(Please turn to page 12)

Church News

The **Blackwood Church of Headland, Ala.**, will soon have a uniform and attractive worship center. The new lectern has been installed, and the ladies' missionary society has raised the money to have two matching pulpit chairs made. The congregation plans to add a cross later.

The Daily Vacation Bible school was a success, with average attendance more than last year.

The annual Farm Bureau Club House chicken supper was greatly enjoyed on July 2nd. The young people's group also had a chicken supper, adding \$38 to the treasury. Attendance is increasing in the young people's group, which meets each Wednesday evening.

—Rev. S. M. Penn

The latter part of June an impressive groundbreaking service was held at the **New Effort Church** of Bonifay, Fla. After the service the men set to work digging trenches for the foundation. The plan is to continue work as rapidly as possible until ready for roof, including poured concrete floor, concrete wall blocks laid and windows installed.

This is as far as we can see into the future with the amount of money on hand, but the church people are working hard to raise more that the structure can be completed.

—Rev. N. A. Long

After services on June 28th, a reception was held in the social room of the **East Tallassee, Liberty Church** honoring the Rev. David Clark and his wife.

Mrs. Maggie Fields and Mrs. Wilma Pemberton served refreshments. Mr. Clark has resigned, and the occasion was planned as a "going-away party."

While the church is without a pastor, the deacons are keeping the pulpit filled with supply pastors. On July 5th the Rev. Clyde Flannery of Southern Union College conducted the morning services, and the Rev. A. D. Ballard brought the message for the evening services.

The Church Building Loan Fund Committee reports that a payment of \$110 has been made on the church's pledge.

The choir and young people held a steak supper on June 24th honoring the pastor and his wife. The steaks were cooked on the newly built barbecue pit in the church yard and were delicious.

Young people from East Tallassee attending the Junior High Conference at Wadley were: Edwina Barker, Barbara Fralic, Joan Pemberton, Jerry Beckham and Phoebe Pemberton.

—Mrs. Floyd Ballard

On July 3rd the annual picnic of the **Crossville First Church** was held in the church, due to the much-needed rain that fell shortly before time to go to the park. All families of resident members were represented and the food was plentiful and delicious.

The Worker's Council of the **Richland Christian Church** met on Friday night, July 17th in the church for a covered dish supper.

Reports from all the standing committees were given, and William Abell was elected as Deacon, to be installed at a later date.

—Mrs. W. J. Abell

The **Mountain Grove Church**, near Hanceville, Ala., announced that Dr. E. C. Paustian, head of the Division of Social Sciences at Athens College, spoke at both morning and evening services recently.

Professor Paustian has a rich background in Religious and Social Work. His father was a Methodist Pastor in rural churches in Kansas and his brother was for many years a missionary in India. His two sisters were, until their retirement, Methodist missionaries in Chile.

Dr. Guy L. Colbert is pastor of the church.

—O—

The Rev. Earl Hand at La Foret

The Rev. Virgil Earl Hand, of Pearson, Ga., is attending the Pastors' School of the Congregational Christian Churches, now in session at La Foret, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dr. Stanley U. North, Dean of the school, reports that sixteen states, and the Republic of Mexico, are represented. The student body numbers forty-two, including pastors of English, Negro, Japanese, German and Mexican Churches.

The school, now in its 13th session, is destined to bring Congregational Christian ministers together for a month of lectures, reading, fellowship, and the inspiration of the High Rockies. Among the members of the staff are Professor William Pauck, of Union Seminary, New York City; Dr. Allen Wehrli, of Eden Seminary, Webster Grove, Mo.; Dr. Kendrick Grobel, of Vanderbilt School of Religion, Nashville, Tenn.; Professor Edmund Linn, of Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton, Mass.; Dr. Emerson G. Hangen, of First Church, Long Beach, Calif.; Dr. Vernon Loescher, Union Congregational Church, Hinsdale, Ill.; Rex. Alex. Ferguson, Secretary of the Visual Aid Department of the Missions Council; Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, Secretary of the Missions Council; Miss Grace Storms, of the Division of Christian Education.

The ministers will depart on August 5th for their various homes to become a part of the school alumni now numbering nearly one thousand men.

—O—

Service for Rev. William Henry Graham

Plans are underway to place a marker on the grave of the Rev. William Henry Graham, who served several of the Congregational Churches of middle Georgia over a period of fifty years. He died July 4, 1919, and although he was a Christian minister, Civil War Veteran, and Mason, his grave was never marked.

Mr. Graham was buried at Century Nelson Church in Pike County. W. E. Cochran, pastor of the church, has suggested that the unveiling ceremony be held at one o'clock on August 16, 1953, in connection with the annual homecoming celebration.

The Rev. Graham was born Feb. 20, 1845, in

Beliefs and Practices of the Congregational Christian Fellowship

By W. C. Carpenter

Several ministers have been discussing the need of phrases to express the position of our church. In my experience I have gathered quite a few which I use extensively, and I believe profitably, and am quoting some of them below in the hope that others may add more and send them to me.

Our Church Offers:

Christian Liberty without sinful indulgence.

Church union with diversity of opinions.

Christian democracy with unity.

Unity of purpose with diversity of ideas and programs.

A test of fellowship including all Christians and excluding all sinners.

We are satisfied with the Bible and offer no other creed.

We zealously seek the Truth—not merely the opinions of men.

We recognize only one head of our church—Jesus Christ. More than one head is a monstrosity.

Only earthly authority—the voice of individual members of local churches.

A fellowship as broad as God's Kingdom, but no wider than the gates of Heaven.

We offer the same Christian Liberty that we desire for ourselves.

We are ruled only by the persuasion of Truth.

Outside officials have only advisory power and influence.

A pure heart is more to be desired than perfect ritual.

Essentials only are required; non-essentials are optional; Love is dominant.

On our part, we stand united with all Christians—others may **exclude** us, but we **include** them—which unites after all.

Any test of fellowship which excludes even one single humble Christian is obviously just too narrow to represent the Kingdom of God.

Gwinnett County, Ga. His people moved to Pike County while he was a small boy and he lived the remainder of his life there, with the exception of the time served in the Confederate Army.

The Rev. Graham was the moving spirit in the Congregational movement, working almost unaided for a long time. Help came from the Home Mission Board and other sources and he was able to establish several churches. In fifty years of preaching he never received as much money as many preachers get in one year. He died a pauper.

The committee in charge of raising money for the grave marker consists of Joe Story of the Masonic Lodge of Zebulon, Mrs. Robert Mitchell, active worker in the U.D.C., and representatives of the churches served by Mr. Graham. Miss Blanche McDaniel, clerk of the Bethany Church, 431 Hill Street, Thomaston, Ga., has been asked to serve as secretary and treasurer of the committee until permanent officers have been elected. Carlton B. Colquitt, Sr., of Silvertown, Ga., is chairman of the committee.

We distinguish between human perfection and Godly perfection. We can attain the first, but we just "go on to" the second.

We are founded on eternal, unchallenged principles—not disrupted doctrines.

Christian Character is our only test of fellowship and church membership.

We guarantee the liberty of conscience and the right of private judgment.

Foundation of faith broad enough for a United Christendom.

We are a fellowship of independent Christian churches.

Point all to the "straight and narrow" which is wide enough if we walk straight.

We place the Kingdom of God first and the institutions of men second.

If we can offer a better head for our church than Jesus Christ, a better rule of faith and practice than the Holy Bible, a better test of fellowship and church membership than Christian Character, a better name than Christian, a better liberty than liberty of conscience and private judgment, a better union than a united Christian fellowship,—we will gladly accept, but we will accept nothing less.

Flower Arrangements for Church

By Mrs. A. D. Harry

When it's your turn to decorate the church, have you ever wished ardently that you could do a really beautiful flower arrangement? We are all willing to furnish the flowers if only someone else will arrange them!

In our church at Lanett the missionary circles have complete charge of church decorations, so we decided to make our auxiliary meeting a practical one. (The auxiliary meeting is a quarterly meeting of the six church circles.) We invited Mrs. John L. Nelson, of West Point, Ga., to speak on flower arrangements for churches. She also discussed types of containers and colors of flowers most suitable for the sanctuary. As she talked she made a number of arrangements, giving details as to the way to get the various effects. This demonstration was most helpful, since she worked with the flowers we brought from our own yards and the containers we furnished.

When our new church is finished Mrs. Nelson will be with us again for a series of talks and demonstrations on flower arranging. She grows and arranges flowers as a hobby, but has the technique of a professional and has won blue ribbons for specimens and state awards for her arrangements.

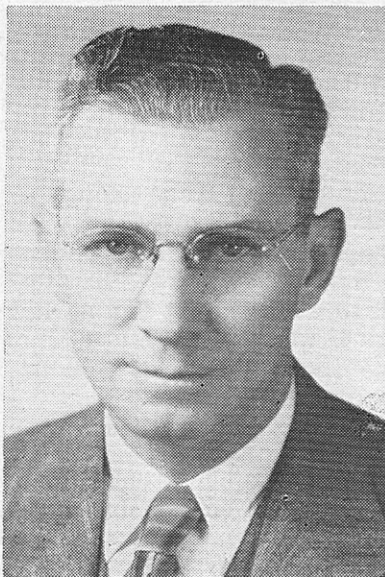
Waycross Family Camp

The annual summer conference of the Georgia Conference of Congregational Christian Churches will be held at Camp Waycross August 16-22, 1953.

Theme for this session is "Understanding Our Church" and the Rev. Earl Hand is Dean. During Mr. Hand's study at La Foret, the Assistant Dean, the Rev. Henry Abbott, is handling the program and other last minute details. Mrs. Henry Abbott is Dean of Women, the Rev. Ralph Worley is Dean

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Southern Union College



REV. JIMMIE FRENCH

Memorial Scholarships

The many friends of the Rev. Jimmie French have established the "Jimmie French Memorial Scholarship." Because Jimmie was interested enough in the ministry to continue his education at great financial sacrifice, it was felt that this would be a very fitting memorial—to make it possible for other men to do a thing that was so close to his heart. Contributions to this fund are welcomed from anyone interested in Christian education and the furtherance of the ministry in the Southeast Convention. Checks should be made payable to "The Jimmie French Scholarship Fund" and sent to Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala. The principal will be invested and only the income used for scholarship aid. Jimmie's friends will want to help make this a very worthwhile and useful memorial.

The J. J. Carter Memorial Scholarship, established by the Men's Bible Class of the Wadley Union Sunday School, has grown to more than one thousand dollars. A folder, with a picture of Mr. Carter and a brief biographical sketch, has been prepared and will be sent out soon.

Conferences

An overwhelming delegation turned out for the Junior High Pilgrim Fellowship Conference July 5-11. Beds were placed three to a room and out in the halls. It was encouraging to see the place literally "alive" with young people. A larger-than-expected group turned up for the Women's Fellowship Retreat on July 14-15. The Senior High Conference was also well attended, and was held July 19-25. All conferences were well planned and moved along very smoothly.

Vacation Bible School

The Wadley Kiwanis Club and Southern Union joined forces to help with a Vacation Bible School for the Negro children of the community—the first one ever held. More than sixty students were enrolled for the week. Two Student Summer Serv-

ice workers, a member of the local Kiwanis Club, and three teachers from the Negro church constituted the faculty.

Fall Enrollment

The student enrollment for the fall looks good. We are expecting an increased student body, particularly resident students. Our faculty is taking very good shape. We will be able to supply speakers for Sunday morning services, missionary societies and other church activities. Anyone wishing a speaker for special occasions should write to the college well in advance.

—Clyde C. Flannery, President

"Kingdom Business"

(From page 5)

3. Lifting the motivation of church giving.
4. The principle of stewardship in relation to church finance.
5. The relation of the material to the spiritual. In its interest in the material needs of the church, is there any danger of this board acquiring a supercilious attitude of detachment from the spiritual objectives of the parish?
6. Is this board, like some, a "bottle-neck" in the world service program of its church due to lack of information, provincialism, or a lack of vital Christianity that impels to sharing?
7. In building church spirit and morale, is this board an asset or a liability? Do we have courage as well as caution? Do we major in cooperation or criticism?
8. A review of insurance needs; all phases, including liability and pastor's annuity.
9. Preparation of the budget; conferring with all departments and auxiliaries and remembering that the benevolence goal should be determined and proposed by the department of missions of the church.
10. A study of the per capita fellowship dues.
11. Have a member of the Convention Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education come for a visit with the Trustees.
12. Provide a Missions Council promotional packet for each trustee to reveal how many helps are available.
13. Occasionally invite a trustee to study up on an assigned phase or problem of their work and present a report on it.
14. Set up a regional school for trustees and invite nearby boards to prepare on definite subjects.
15. Go to church.

These are great ideas and we are deeply indebted to Dr. Montgomery for sharing them with us. Let's put some of this wisdom to work and begin to take seriously this "Kingdom business" in which we are all engaged!

THE CHURCH AT WORK

(From page 3)

bility, before many months pass, will be going to their homes scattered all over this country of ours. What an opportunity to show them that God is and that Christ's church cares. What a chance to enlarge vision and increase hope.

Brethren, pray for us and for this people.

Meditations From Ministers

"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose."—Romans 8:28. Read verses 28 to 39.

A Glorious Assurance

By Rev. Allyn K. Walleigh

"We know that in everything God works for good . . ." These words are usually taken as an unconditional promise. There is no "if" in this verse. It is so easy to read the words as if they contained nothing tentative, as if they expressed a supreme confidence unaffected by any supreme conditions. The impression is at once given that the words tell of what God does without reference to what man does. But if we search these words we shall discover some deep conditions tucked away in this sweeping assurance.

"We know." Who are the "we"? Evidently those who have gotten the standpoint and assurance of faith! The returns of life are not all in yet; it may be that hundreds of years will pass before the great effects can truly be registered. The knowledge, then, is the knowledge of faith. Of course, the man who does not have faith will laugh at this glorious assurance as being somewhat foolish and impractical. But "we know." We have already had enough experience to give us confidence. Seeing things from the "spiritual angle," we review past things and find a hopeful verdict about them.

Now try Christian people, thorough-going Christian people, with this test. See how many of them will be quick to say that the spiritual interpretation of life's experiences brings an ever-clearer knowledge that these experiences have been working for good. Indeed, many of the things which we first considered as losses have since turned out to be credits on life's ledger. The person of faith sees this and recognizes its inherent truth.

The assurance is that "in everything God works for good." Judged in their separateness all things may not be good. Fragmentary experiences puzzle us a great deal. The cog seems to be a dead weight, until you discover how it fits into the whole machinery. The building materials are unseemly and in the way until they find their place in the whole structure. Taken separately many parts are nuisances; placed together all the parts are benefits. Fragmentarily they cause damage; together they effect good.

What kind of "good" someone may ask. The Christian who is afflicted by materialism, and who still lives under the limited view of the Old Testament idea of the relation of goodness to material prosperity, wants to construe this assurance as meaning bodily good. But the man - Paul - who wrote the words knew something about a "thorn in the flesh" which brought no bodily good at all, and which, for all that, did bring some good.

Many of God's people are sick, many are poor, and many have failed to obtain the material goods of life. Jesus Himself said: "The foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Remember too, that He died on a Cross at a very early age. Estimated by the usual standards of "good" Jesus was a complete failure. And yet our text does not deny Christ! It speaks of spiritual good. The assurance is that everything, coming into the rightly conditioned life, carries that life on to an inner prosperity.

And what is the right condition? It is stated very clearly: "we know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him." This is a reversal of the usual thought. We would say that things were likely to work together for good to them that knew the right people! But here we find the condition located squarely in men's hearts! Only those who love God truly and deeply have any right to claim this glorious assurance.

The words leave the idea that the conditions on God's side are all met; they assert that the only remaining condition must be met by you and me in our hearts and lives. Well, do we fulfill this condition? Do we love God? Is our spiritual state such that when "everything" reaches us it must work in an atmosphere of love? After all, the condition is the most serious one that could be fixed. The person who loves God is kept from sin. And so, "everything" that reaches him does not come from his own evil predictions. "Everything" is either of God's appointing or permitting.

Blessed is he who has this glorious assurance and can join with those who say: "we know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose."

WAYCROSS FAMILY CAMP

(From page 9)

of Men, Miss Patricia Wynn is Registrar, and Mrs. M. J. Lynn is Dietician and Business Manager.

Georgia ministers who will be teaching courses are: John E. Pickens, Jr., W. C. Carpenter, Henry C. Weaver, D. W. Shepherd, Collie Seymour, Herbert Long, Carl Parker and Dr. A. R. Van Cleave from Southern Union College, and Richard Drake of Emory University.

The purpose of a summer conference is to promote the personal enrichment and strengthen the Christian conviction of our young people, and to furnish an experience of living in a Christian community. The conferences also develop Christian leadership and provide training in skills for church leadership.

Classes will be held in missions, evangelism, church business and finance, and there will also be periods of recreation, singing and visual education.

All Georgia churches are urged to send representatives to the summer conference, in order that the high purpose to which it is dedicated may be fulfilled.

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Church Activities Calendar

Aug. 2-8 Sealacon Camp
Aug. 14-15 South Alabama Association at Blackwood Church, Headland
Aug. 14-15 Central Alabama Association at Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee
Aug. 16-22 Waycross Family Camp, at Waycross
Aug. 18 Board of Directors' Meeting in Atlanta
Aug. 21 Georgia Women's Retreat at Waycross
Aug. 22-23 North Alabama Association at Caddo, Friendship Church, Trinity

LOOKING AHEAD FO RFALL

Order Now Your Fall Program Material

For the Church School
For Our Christian World Mission
For Every Member Canvass (sample materials will be sent you in late August)

Making Plans for Fall Program

Set the date for your every Member Canvass and appoint your teams and committees
Elect delegates to Association and Conference meetings

Begin making plans for Laymen's Sunday on October 18th

Appoint Visitors' Committee to plan for Visitation Evangelism to contact new members for the church

For World-Wide Communion Sunday, Oct. 4th, encourage church attendance and special worship; distribute **Daily Devotions**.

Plan special program and offering for Our Christian World Mission on Thanksgiving. Table banks and materials for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas may be ordered from the Missions Council, 287 Fourth Avenue, N. Y.

For Mission Study material and other Women's Fellowship materials, write your state president.

Book "The Hidden Heart," stewardship film, through the Convention office.

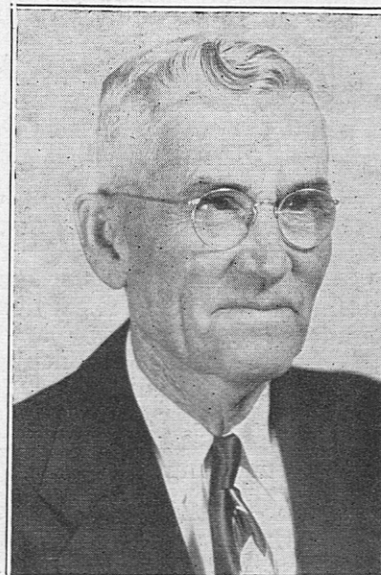
Church Activities Calendar (50c) and the Rural Parish Workbook (\$1) may be ordered from the Convention office.

Tools for the Task

(From page 6)

which it spoke are real people to her now. Too often we use our program helps and lay them aside, when the church school, the missionary education committee, some young person, or perhaps even the pastor would like to know "where we do find such interesting things." Loan your tools, or lay them in the way for someone else to stumble over—they might use them.

As we women of the Southeast Convention go about finding new ways in which we can work together, these tools can be instrumnets with which we cultivate our lives in a way which will make us go about "REJOICING IN OUR TASK."



REV. JOHN D. DOLLAR

Forty-Seven Years in the Ministry

The Rev. John D. Dollar, of Lanett, Ala., is a living example of real consecration and service in the Christian ministry. Mr. Dollar retired from the active ministry last December, after forty-seven years of service.

The first church he served was Rock Stand, in Randolph County, Ala. The last church was the Bethel Church of West Point, Ga. During this almost half a century Mr. Dollar preached about 5,000 sermons, received 3,358 new members (127 was the most in any one year; four the least) and married 133 couples. He officiated at 545 funerals and assisted at about as many more.

Mr. Dollar, up to his retirement, had earned a total salary of \$40,424.40 in those forty-seven years. The highest salary he ever received was \$2,340 per year and the least was \$4.80! He never measured his service in terms of money, but went where the need was the greatest regardless of what the church could afford to pay.

Son of the Rev. and Mrs. C. M. Dollar, John Dollar was born in Randolph County, Ala., March 28, 1883. His father was a school teacher, farmer and preacher. His brother, son and a nephew are preachers.

Mrs. Dollar, formerly Miss Emma Adamson, was born in Troup County, Ga. They were married April 2, 1900, and have twelve children, thirty living grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

(From page 7)

High School of Nashville, Tenn., and for the past three years has been teaching at Baker High School in Columbus, Ga.

With these qualifications plus her charm and enthusiasm, she is well prepared for the important task she has accepted.